THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Wednesday, the 4th February 1925.

The House met at 11 o'clock, Mr President (the hon. Diwan Bahadur L. D. SWAMIKANNU PILLAI Avargal, C.I.E., I.S.O.) in the chair.

I

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[*Order made by the President of the Madras Legislative Council under Standing Order No.* 15 *on the* 4*th December* 1924—

1. Starred questions to be put at a meeting of the Council with their answers shall be printed and placed on the Council table an hour before the President takes his seat.

The Secretary shall call out the name of each interpellator in the order in which the names are printed, specify the serial number of his question and make a sufficient pause to give him or any other member a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place and putting a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.

2. If a member responsible for a starred question happens to be absent when it is called, it will be open either to him or to any other member to put supplemental questions thereon after the other starred questions for the day have been answered, provided question-time is not thereby exceeded.

3. Questions, not starred, will not be called in Council, but they will be printed with their answers and placed on the table of the House along with the list of starred questions. Oral supplementary questions will not be allowed in regard to unstarred questions.]

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STARRED QUESTIONS.

Depressed Classes.

Appointment of manager of the office of the Commissioner of Labour, Madras.

* 41 *Q.*—Mr. R. VEERIAN: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any proposal made by the Commissioner of Labour to appoint an Adi-Dravida as manager of the office of the Commissioner of Labour, Madras; and

(*b*) whether the Commissioner of Labour is vested with powers to appoint such an officer?

A.—(*a*) No.
(*b*) Yes.

Mr. R. VEERIAN:—" With reference to the answer given in clause (*a*), may I know the qualifications required for the post of manager of the office of Commissioner of Labour? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—" I am afraid I must have notice of that question."

Mr. R. SRINIVASAN:—" Is it not possible to obtain a competent man from among the depressed classes for the post of manager of the office of Commissioner of Labour? "

[4th February 1925

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" That is a matter on which it is impossible to give an answer. As far as I know, the post is not vacant."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" May I know whether the present manager of the office of Commissioner of Labour has not the real interests of the depressed classes ? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I have no reason to believe so."

Emigration.

Accommodation in S.S. " Teesta " carrying emigrants to the Federated Malay States.

* 42 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether S.S. *Teesta* which carried emigrants to the Federated Malay States on 20th November 1924 is a very old ship having no sufficient latrine accommodation or a sanitary cooking place and with a damp floor ;

(b) whether it was unfit to carry human traffic ; and

(c) whether Mr. Paddison went to the wharf to inspect the emigrants but failed to inspect the accommodation in the steamer ?

A.—(a) The Government have no information as to whether the *Teesta* is an old ship. They understand that it has sufficient latrine accommodation, that the cooking places are clean and that the floor is not damp.

(b) No.

(c) Mr. Paddison examined the emigrants, but did not inspect the ship as he had already seen it.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" With reference to the answer given in clause (a), may I ask the hon. the Home Member to be good enough to say how he came to understand that the ship has sufficient latrine accommodation, etc. ? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" The Government came to understand it from a report received from one of the officers whose duty it was to inspect the ship."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" I only want to know who was it that inspected the ship and whether he was an officer of this Government."

Mr. G. F. PADDISON :—" I went and inspected the ship."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Then the ship was allowed to go in this unfit condition in spite of Mr. Paddison's inspection. "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" The hon. Member must ask only Mr. Paddison."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" That is asking me to appeal from Philip drunk to Philip sober."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" On a point of order, Sir. May I ask my hon. Friend who is Philip drunk and who is Philip sober ? "

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Mr. Paddison is Philip drunk and Mr. Paddison is also Philip sober."